

# CARRIZOZO OUTLOOK

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## DOUBLE TRAGEDY OCCURED WEDNESDAY

Sam J. Potts Shoots and Kills  
Tom J. Coleman, His Hired  
Hand, Then Takes His  
Own Life

## DOMESTIC TROUBLE THOUGHT TO BE CAUSE OF KILLING

One of the most horrible tragedies ever committed in this section of recent years occurred Wednesday morning about nine o'clock at the Potts dairy ranch three miles east of this city, when Sam J. Potts, the well known dairyman shot and killed Tom J. Coleman, his hired hand, and within a few minutes after the killing of Coleman, shot and killed himself.

Shortly after the killing Judge Ed. Massie was notified and went out and held an inquest over the dead bodies.

An examination of the body of Coleman revealed the fact that he had received five bullet wounds, each one passing entirely through the body, while that of Potts showed only one bullet wound which entered the roof of the mouth and came out at the back of the head.

Mrs. Potts was the only one about the premises when the killing took place, but did not witness either of the tragedies according to the story she told the coronor's jury. She stated that she was in the barn milking and did not know of any trouble existing between the two men until she came to the house for a milk vessel, when Mr. Potts informed her of what had happened. The witness further stated that her husband took her to the scene of the shooting and looking upon the dead man's face walked away to a hay stack only a short distance from the house and there took his own life, although Mrs. Potts stated that she heard no shot at this time and knew nothing of what he had done until she found his dead body a few minutes later.

While there was no evidence given to the jury by the witness showing that the two men had ever had trouble, it is believed by almost everyone that the tragedy was brought about by some family affair.

Mr. Potts had resided in this vicinity for the past seven years and had proven himself to be an honorable, upright man in every way. In fact his character up to the time of his death was above reproach, and this news comes as a great surprise to his many friends. He is survived by his wife and two year old son.

Little is known of Coleman who had only been in this section a few months. From letters found in his suit case he had friends in Los Animas, and other points in Colorado, although it is said he was a native of California. It is also stated that he had a wife and two children whose whereabouts are unknown.

Both bodies were brought to town immediately after the coronor's inquest and prepared for burial by embalmer Kelley.

The body of Potts will be shipped today to Beaumont, Texas,

for interment, where the deceased formerly lived.

Coleman's remains will be held here for a few days and if not called for by relatives will be buried in the local cemetery.

The jury was composed of Geo. L. Ulrich, Geo. J. Dingwall, Thos. O. Luster, Joe R. Adams, Henry Hoffman and Frank Gray. Following is their verdict:

"We the Justice of the Peace and Jury who sat upon the inquest held this 9th day of June, 1915, over the bodies of Sam J. Potts and Tom J. Coleman, found in Precinct No. 14, Lincoln County, New Mexico, find that Tom J. Coleman met his death by reason of five gun shot wounds fired by the hand of Sam J. Potts, and that Sam J. Potts met his death by reason of a gun shot wound fired by his own hand with suicidal intent."

## CARRIZOZO WINS BOTH GAMES

Last Sunday the baseball fever had the Carrizozo people in its grip and the fans had the pleasure of witnessing two good baseball contests on the local diamond. Manager Rolland arranged a double header with Fort Stanton, El Paso and Carrizozo, Fort Stanton and Carrizozo to play first, then the winning team to play El Paso. The Carrizozo team carried off all honors, defeating Fort Stanton by a score of 7 to 5, and El Paso by a score of 2 to 3.

The home team is certainly getting in the harness and expect to make a better showing from now on than ever before. Following is the Carrizozo line up: Dawson, rf; W. Dingwall, 2d; Reilly, ss; Adams, 3d; Dolan, p; B. Dingwall, c; Grumbles, lf; Lutes, 1st; Fisher, of.

## HE WAS HERE

Hon. Chas. P. Downs of Carrizozo, assistant district attorney of the Third Judicial District Court, former representative for Otero County in the house of the legislature, former editor and publisher of the Alamogordo News-Advertiser and first, and last, and all the time one of the best fellows in anybody's judicial district, was in our midst yesterday and a part of today, looking after official matters. He left on No. 3 today for Las Cruces.—Otero County News.

## CIVIC LEAGUE CONCERT

The Civic League Concert which was given at the Methodist church last Monday evening was one of the best entertainments of its kind ever given in the city. While the attendance was small, which perhaps was due to the weather, every number seemed to be appreciated by everyone present. Something over \$20.00 was realized which will be spent for the improvement of the cemetery.

## GAVE AFTERNOON PARTY

Miss Harriett Kimbell entertained a few of her friends at a house party Tuesday afternoon. Various games afforded the afternoon's entertainment at the conclusion of which refreshments were served.

## THEY MADE AN EXAMINATION

Of the Books of Justice Alberto Garcia—Found Nothing Wrong—It Was An Abortive Effort

## GOV. McDONALD ONE OF THE COMMITTEE

It was an awesome committee who entered the office of Justice Alberto Garcia on Wednesday morning last and asked to see his public records.

The committee consisted of Governor McDonald, Supreme Justice Hanna and Perennial-Candidate-for-Any-Old-Thing Adolfo Hill.

Presumably this distinguished trio expected to find some evidence of the dire wrongs and appalling evidences of unrighteous intimidation, which the Santa Fe Knocker has been telling its readers about, and which is still only in the excited minds of the Knocker contingent, whose silly and furious fustian has been the laughing stock of the community.

Well, the partly distinguished committee made a thorough examination, as one composed of such men would do, and they called for the original papers and took Judge Garcia down the line from the first warrant he ever issued to the last act done by him and failed to find a flaw. The record was clean.

Then the governor of the state, who does not seem to have enough business of state importance to occupy his mind and attention, and mixes in the local city affairs for relaxation, or possibly for notoriety's sake, turned to his fellow sleuths and said he didn't see anything wrong, and the near distinguished committee walked out of the judge's office, defeated.

There is fairness and decency in all things, even in a municipal election, though one would not judge from the attitude of the Knocker and some of its allies, that such a thing is necessary.

If Governor McDonald is so anxious to have a hand in the affairs of the city during his temporary residence here, in addition to those of the state, it would appear better if he displayed his charity and pity on someone more worthy than the heroes of the pardoning act so copiously and vociferously displayed and eulogized in the columns of the Knocker.

Was not the 'gentleman' who was given the pardon by the governor the man who was given a smash in the face by Judge Richard H. Hanna last fall for offering an insult to the wife of another member of the supreme court, and was he not also the man who was caught in the act of stealing products from the Gross Kelley company some months ago?

Let's be fair about these things. If it is the intention of the governor and those working with him to enter upon a people's reform movement and aid in the restitution to decency of those who have gone wrong, then it is most commendable, but why has the spasm just taken hold of the distinguished

officials and why are they so very solicitous over these particular men at the present time and why do they single out a man who has been a constant violator of the law as the one who is suffering this awful persecution?

Constancy, though rare, is a very laudable quality, and it is one of the things of life which all like to see, but it loses its effect when it becomes merely a spasmodic attempt to make a flare and get a halo at some seemingly opportune time to walk into the limelight.

The examples of 'intimidation' and 'victims of malicious persecution' so furiously and excitedly exploited in the columns of the Knocker are scarcely those who appeal to the average citizen of Santa Fe, with the well known record they have made in the city, which is well known to all men. Both of the pardon 'victims' have served time over and over again for violation of the law.—State Record.

## H. B. FERGUSSON DIES

Harvey B. Fergusson, former congressman from New Mexico, who recently resigned as private secretary to William Jennings Bryan, died at his home in Albuquerque yesterday. He was 67 years old.

Mr. Fergusson was the first congressman from New Mexico, following admission of the state in 1911 and was reelected for the 63d congress in 1912.

He was defeated for reelection in 1914 and, at the conclusion of his term, became private secretary to Mr. Bryan, a post he held for several months.

Mr. Fergusson was at one time a resident of White Oaks and an associate of John Y. Hewitt in the practice of law.

## NOTICE

The undersigned merchants of Carrizozo announce that they will close their respective places of business at 6:30 p. m. except Saturday.

The Carrizozo Trading Co.  
Ziegler Bros.  
Patty & Adams  
John E. Bell  
A. C. Wingfield  
Kelley & Son

## LINCOLN

Farmers are cutting alfalfa in this vicinity.

J. W. McPherson will move into the house vacated by Mr. Hurst.

Mr. and Mrs. Hurst entertained a number of their friends on Friday evening before leaving for Pecos.

A dance which was well attended was held in the old court house on Saturday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Provine of Capitan were visitors at the home of Mrs. Provine's parents on Sunday.

Johnson Hurst and family have gone to Pecos to live. Mr. Hurst has been employed by the Bloom Cattle Co. to work on the Circle Diamond ranch.

The family of W. O. Norman have gone to Albuquerque, having been called there by the death of a child of Mrs. Acasio Gallegos, a daughter of Mrs. Norman.

## THE UNDERWOOD TARIFF BILL

The Court is Asked to Interpret the Meaning of Paragraph 408 of The Underwood Tariff Act

## FIRST IMPORTANT LAW OF PRESENT ADMINISTRATION

A typical example of inexcusable blundering by Congress in the enactment of a statute has been argued recently before the Court of Customs Appeals. The court is asked to interpret the meaning of paragraph 408 of the Underwood tariff act, the first important law of the present administration.

The paragraph provides free entry for "waste" of any of the articles therein described "SUITABLE" for the manufacture of paper. Careless use of the word "suitable" in drafting the law plunged it into uncertainty, for it admits a wide latitude of construction. Will free entry be given to anything that MIGHT be used in paper making; or must waste be used ONLY in paper making in order to enter free of duty?

Already two opposing constructions have been placed upon the statute, one by customs officials who imposed a tax, another by the Board of U. S. General Appraisers who allowed free entry. Now the higher court is appealed to for a third opinion as to the intent of the law makers.

The blunder is more notable because the language of former tariff acts was an ample guide, clearly emphasizing the need for unequivocal diction. The act of 1897 provided free entry for waste "FIT ONLY" to be converted into paper. The corresponding paragraph in the 1909 act extended free entry to waste "USED CHIEFLY" for paper making.

With these provisions in the old law, it seems as though intelligent revision would have been simplicity itself. But with their fatal gift of blundering the Democrats seized upon and inserted "SUITABLE" in the law—the one word that neither customs officials, lawyers nor business men affected could understand, and which rendered imperative the litigation now in the courts before the statute can be finally enforced.

## THE COUNTRY KID

If you enjoy a good laugh, invest in a ticket to "The Country Kid" and spend next Friday evening at the school auditorium. The proceeds from this play will be used for the improvement of two tennis courts for the young people of Carrizozo.

## TO RETURN TO DEMING

Mrs. R. W. Yeargin who has been spending several weeks here at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Andrew McCurdy, will leave tomorrow morning for her home in Deming. She will be accompanied home by Mrs. McCurdy and baby who will spend the remainder of the summer at that place.